

## **Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Advisory Board Meeting**

September 16, 2021

### ***Attendees:***

Ms. Stefanie Wirth, MSP

D/F/Lt. Brad Cox, MSP

Mr. Mike Moll, Meijer

Mr. Shannon Simon, General Public

Representative

Mr. John Shuler, Target Loss Prevention

Ms. Amy Drumm, Michigan Retailers Assoc.

Mr. Doug Lloyd, Eaton Co. Prosecutors Office

Chief Vernon Coakley, Kalamazoo Police Dept.

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Meeting was called to order on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 1:42 p.m.

### **Legislative Update**

- Senate Bill 134 - would add Section 410c to the Michigan Penal Code to prohibit a person from distributing, delivering, selling, or possessing with intent to distribute, deliver, or sell a drug masking product, and prescribe misdemeanor and felony penalties for violating Section 410c.
- Senate Bill 135 - would amend the sentencing guidelines in the Code of Criminal Procedure to include the felony prescribed in Senate Bill 134 as a Class E crime against public ordinance with a statutory maximum of five years' imprisonment.
- House Bill 4241 – Forfeiture; disposal of funds from seized vehicles. Would amend Sec. 625n of the Michigan Vehicle Code. Balance of remaining funds after required payments as appropriated by the entity having budgetary authority over the unit involved in effecting the forfeiture with not more than 30%, or an amount not exceeding an hourly rate agreed to by the seizing agency and the appropriate prosecutor.
- House Bill 4472 – would amend Sec. 174a of PA 328 of 1931 to include elder adults in crime of embezzlement. Current law uses vulnerable adult. This is part of the Elder Abuse Task Force headed up by AG's office last term.
- House Bills 4631 and 4632 – Together, the bills would amend Article 7 (controlled substances) of the Public Health Code to allow cash or property seized in connection with drug offenses to be subject to forfeiture without a conviction or guilty plea being required if the value of cash or property exceeds \$20,000 and it is seized by law enforcement officers appointed by specific airport authorities.

### **Old Business**

The last meeting minutes from June 17, 2021, were approved. Motioned by D/F/Lt. Brad Cox, seconded by Ms. Amy Drumm.

### **New Business**

Ms. Amy Drumm updated the Board on the draft Bills in progress. Mr. John Shuler severed contact with former website provider prior to looking into new database platform for ORA. The former website provider is not going to release domain site, and as a result, Mr. John Shuler has created a new domain website and is transitioning memberships to new domain.

### **Roundtable**

Ms. Drumm is working to get the web station introduced into the Informed Act, hoping to have introduced next month.

Mr. Moll detailed west side of state with a growing number of larcenies from autos (LFAs). There is a group from Chicago coming over performing LFAs, gun store robberies, and T-Mobile store robberies. Several arrests made in Lansing area over summer, although slowed down since COVID-19. From a trend perspective, more assaults on hospital personnel. A large increase in ecommerce fraud. Mr. Moll referenced intent to recoup restitution dollar loss to replace and upgrade exterior cameras in parking lots to read license plates.

D/F/Lieutenant Cox attempted to create several ORC blitzes in the metro Detroit area. Many local agencies respond shortage of officers to assist. MSP is working widely to target Meijer. MSP Fraud Investigation Unit is growing to include greater coverage in the state.

Mr. Lloyd highlighted increased assaultive nature this day surrounding retail stores and towards law enforcement. Mr. Lloyd explained importance of thorough report-writing to document dollar amount in theft for prosecution.

Mr. Shuler detailed social engineering in place to manipulate cash transactions. Props given to MSP with Shipt and \$1.5 million investigation. Reports spike in LEGO fraud and Red Bull theft. In general, burglary increase.

Chief Coakley explained Club Target and how the group operates rolling parties as a distraction to create damage and theft. The group utilizes social media as influence, such as Snapchat and TikTok.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at Michigan State Police Headquarters. This is contingent upon COVID-19 operational procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.